

## Tai Scholarship Honors Former Library Director

Submitted by Mary Taylor

The Tai Scholarship of the Poquoson Public Library honors the library's former director, Elizabeth Tai, in appreciation of her achievement, service, dedication and standards of excellence. Each year, the scholarship is awarded each year to high school seniors who have volunteered with Poquoson Public Library. Funding for the scholarship comes from various fundraising events held by the Friends of the Library, mainly book sales. This year's winners

are Noah Wiggins and Leah Spradlin from Poquoson and Elizaveta Radkevich from York.

Noah Wiggins has been a year round volunteer since 2013. Noah has also done many hours of volunteering at Northside Christian Church. Noah feels that the most important thing learned from volunteering is the mutual respect among coworkers. He enjoyed feeling needed by the ladies at the library and feels sad that it is coming to an end by going to college. He will be attending Liberty University in the fall.

Leah Spradlin has been a summer volunteer since 2015. She also volunteers through various clubs at the high school. Leah feels that by volunteering she learned about punctuality, responsibility, work ethic and all the hard work that goes into caring for the library. She enjoyed the interaction with people and their children and helping children enjoy books in an electronic age. Leah will be attending Christopher Newport University in the fall.

Elizaveta Radkevich has volunteered for three summers



and year round last year which included helping at our larger programs. She also has volunteered at the Russian School of Hampton Roads. Elizaveta has enjoyed all aspects of volunteering



from cleaning shelves to unpacking new books and registering children for the reading programs. This past summer she was designated as a senior volunteer to help new volunteers flourish during the



summer busy times. She would like to come back as an adult volunteer. She will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

## Congresswoman Luria Advances Hampton Roads Priorities in NDAA

Submitted by Chris Carroll  
Congresswoman Luria's Office

WASHINGTON -- Today, key priorities for the Hampton Roads region were included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), following nearly 20 hours of debate in the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and weeks of advocacy by Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Vice Chair Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA-02).

"It was a privilege to fight for Hampton Roads and utilize my 20 years of service in the Navy to ensure passage of a defense authorization

bill that keeps Americans safe, gives our troops the resources they need to succeed, and best positions Hampton Roads to continue our critical role in defending America," Congresswoman Luria said. "I fought for provisions that will bring a 3.1% pay raise to our troops, improve coastal resiliency of defense installations in Hampton Roads, provide a tenant bill of rights to protect families in military housing, and allocate desperately needed public education funding to local school districts through DoD Impact Aid."

In addition to provisions included in the NDAA base text, three regional priorities

authored and introduced by Congresswoman Luria during markup were voted on by the Committee and were included in the final bill. The final bill passed Committee by a bipartisan vote of 33-24.

Congresswoman Luria's amendments would:

1. Assess ways the Department of Defense (DoD) can assist military families with special needs children during permanent change of station moves to ensure appropriate education and services are available and ready
2. Order an independent report assessing the effectiveness of the Navy's Optimized Fleet

Response Plan (OFRP) in areas including maintenance completion and timeliness, training certifications, and operational availability

3. Redirect \$20 million in funding to support the delayed overhaul of USS BOISE

The entire NDAA includes:

- 3.1% pay raise for servicemembers
- Tenant bill of rights to protect families in military housing
- \$11.5 billion for military construction and family housing
- \$121 million to clean up chemicals in drinking water on or near bases
- \$17 million for

advance planning efforts in support of refueling USS HARRY S TRUMAN

- \$48.9 million for construction improvements at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in support of the Secretary of the Navy's Public Shipyard revitalization plan

DoD supplemental Impact Aid to reimburse local school districts for costs incurred in providing public education to military children with severe disabilities

- Requirement for the DoD to develop expanded standards for the Defense Access Roads Program and to direct DoD to use its authority to initiate construction, repair, and mitigation



projects related to sea-level rise and recurrent flooding

- Accelerates DoD's implementation of the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) to improve the long-term sustainment and resiliency of defense installations

## Transportation Museum Hosts Local Tuskegee Airman

Submitted by Max Lonzanida  
Hampton Roads Naval Museum

FORT EUSTIS -- Tucked within the US Army Transportation Museum is the Delevan C. Close Auditorium. Its dark wood paneled walls are lined with photos of the Army's Transportation Corps, along with regimental colors, and ornate silverware neatly tucked into display cases. Each artifact adds to the story of how soldiers and their equipment are transported.

The Transportation Corps would not function had it not been for talented mechanics. During WWII, the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) existed to transport soldiers, equipment and supplies to battle; and also existed to take the fight right to

enemy forces via fighters and bombers.

Dr. Harry Quinton was one of those talented mechanics who kept the aircraft in the air. Quinton, a 94-year-old Williamsburg resident, was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. During a candid presentation for a packed audience, he shed some light on his wartime experiences; including the inequality that he and other Tuskegee airmen encountered during and after the war.

Quinton enlisted in the US Army during WWII; and was eventually assigned to the 477th Bombardment Squadron, 602nd Air Engineering Squadron of the Army Air Corps. He clarified for many, and noted that "I've never been to Tuskegee, the pilots trained there." He indicated that the name was applied universally to

African Americans within the USAAC; including him, who served as an aircraft mechanic.

Quinton touched on his initial training in Georgia and noted a period during in-processing. He remarked that "if you didn't get put on a detail, you stayed in the barracks or took a nap. One thing, the Army always had something for us to do, guard duty, KP, go pick up cigarettes from the ground" was one of facets he mentioned which struck a chord with many soldiers, civilians and airmen in the packed auditorium.

He recalled some of the guard duties he pulled, and that at times, he was assigned to guard African American military inmates. He noted that "if the [African-American] inmate gets away, you have to serve his term,"

and even noted that captured German Prisoners of War were treated better and had more PX privileges than he did.

Lastly, among the many other interesting facets of his military service, he touched on his role as a mechanic keeping B-25 Mitchell bombers flying. The bombers were manufactured by North American Aviation, and over 10,000 were produced throughout the duration of WWII.

He remarked that "being a pilot was dangerous work. Just being up flying was dangerous work. We're not birds, we build these machines and we put things up in the air, if its not running right you cant just pull over to the curb or call triple A," which brought a roar of laughter among audience members. The presentation concluded with some



Servicemembers and civilians meet with Dr. Harry Quinton at the US Army's Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

(Max Lonzanida/Hampton Roads Naval Museum) closing remarks by Alisha thank him for his service; Hamel, the museum's which, for many, equated director. Afterwards, to a rare photo opportunity lined up to meet him and

## Kid's Corner Bethel Manor ES Student Wins Ride with Sheriff

Submitted by Rebecca Rogers

My daughter, Carson, was the lucky winner of a silent auction held by the Bethel Manor Elementary P.T.A. to "ride to school with a York-Poquoson Sheriff." We Sare PTA members and always love supporting our school! The PTA can't do it without us parents! My daughter's father is a member of Security Forces with the U.S. Air Force, so this was so exciting for her!!

On the last day of school, Deputy Charville came early to let her check

out his vehicle! She was able to turn on the lights, sirens, talk on the P.A. system, and she learned how extremely important our dispatchers are. Deputy Charville gave Carson a Junior Deputy Badge. The experience for her was so awesome!!! She is now deciding between a law enforcement or dispatching career when she grows up. Luckily, she has plenty of time! I can't thank the Bethel Manor Elementary School PTA, York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, and Deputy Charville enough!

## After Fire, Surf Rider Vows to Rebuild

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Mrs. Freeman said that many members of his extended family of coworkers attended his high school graduation party two years prior. On the night of the fire, their son was with several other staff at a supervisor's house to watch the annual "Pro Am Basketball Game."

The silver lining to this tragedy is that no one was reported injured as a result of the fire. The diligence of the first responders kept the fire from spreading beyond the restaurant and a small portion of the marina. As

of Monday (June 17, 2019), an official cause for the fire has not been released and it is still being investigated.

Brandi Timmons said, "The support we have received from our customers and the residents of the City of Poquoson has been so touching." She said that the ownership was working to take care of their employees by making sure they transferred to another one of their restaurants or are financially compensated. "We will make sure that everyone is taken care of while we are in the rebuilding process."

With a vow to rebuild, Ms. Timmons spoke on behalf of the entire company as she extended her thanks to

the first responders and the community. "We are excited to rebuild and get back to serving the wonderful City of Poquoson."



Surf Rider as it stood before the fire (Surf Rider Facebook)